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DATE: March 17
TO: Bill Corvelink & Kevin Aiston
FAX #: 647-5269 647-1726
FROM: Tom Getman
RE:

ZA4

Bill & Kevin -

Disturbing news. Friends attached
in case you haven't seen it
such graphic detail. Keep us
posted on briefings from your side.

Regards,

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From: Kate Almquist_at_wvgva-po#wvccg@wvus
Subject: ~~Rwanda alert~~
To: Russ Kerr_at_wvi, Stephen Commins_at_wvi,
Don Brandt_at_wvi, Getman Thomas, Natsios A
Cc: Eric Ram_at_WVUS-PO, Malcolm Carruthers_at_WVUK-PO
Sent:
Received: 03/16/95

CRAZY!

Burgess Carr (ICVA) shared some disturbing news on Rwanda which he learned yesterday in a DHA-UNHCR briefing here in Geneva for missions to the UN, which I pass on to you for your information (and action, if possible). I do not have many details yet, but will forward Burgess' notes to you once I receive them.

Basically, DHA and UNHCR reported on several developments which suggest an inevitable (and perhaps not too distant) return to war and escalation of the crisis in Rwanda. French nationals are known to be retraining and advising the former Hutu government now resident in Zaire, apparently with the knowledge (and therefore one assumes the implicit consent) of the French government. Arms shipments from several sources are known to be reaching the Hutu camps in Zaire - , namely from Eastern Europe, China (according to Africa Confidential), and Mobutu himself (and his family). Also noted was an increase in the number of incursions into Rwanda from Zaire, and reports that the coalition inside the Rwandan government appears to be breaking down.

The Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for both Rwanda and Burundi have recently issued special calls to the Security Council to take action, but Poul Brandup of DHA notes that there is quite-a-bit of politicking going on within the SC to keep the crises in both countries out of the limelight. The Secretary-General's Task Force on Rwanda, headed by USG Peter Hansen, met yesterday in NY, and the anticipated outcome of that meeting was for a strong

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recommendation
to be made by Hansen to Boutros-Ghali to put pressure on the
Security Council to take action, and on France in particular to account
for the activities of its nationals. Poul also reported that the
humanitarian agencies in Rwanda have prepared a call to action to be
delivered to Boutros-Ghali and missions to the UN (part. the SC) to do
something,
which should be available later today or tomorrow.

Compounding this sense of impending doom on the political front
is the concern over the dire shortages in the food pipeline for Rwanda
and the region, of which I'm sure you are all already aware. Food
rations in the camps have already been significantly cut, and WFP reports
having only 48% of its expected requirements to the end of the year
pledged.

The High Commissioner for Refugees took the unprecedented step
several days ago of allocating \$2 million from her discretionary fund to
help

make up some of the shortfall - \$1 million is going to the
Federation to buy maize, and \$1 million will be used to buy beans in
Tanzania and transport food from Sudan (a good indication of how desperate
things are, I guess). The US has recently pledged an additional \$20
million (\$2.5 million of which will go for security) and the EU \$16
million.

Along with other pledges, this brings the current total up to
about \$59 million, though still far short of what's needed. Needless to
say,
reductions in food rations do not help security in the camps
any.

Attention in Geneva among the humanitarian community is focused
on how to put pressure on the Security Council to address (i.e. take
action to stop) the rearming of the former Hutu government soldiers, and
how to make up for the food shortfall. Ideally, France and other
countries implicated in the rearming and retraining of the Hutu soldiers
should

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be brought to account by the Security Council, and measures taken to cut off the arms shipments.

None of this information is terribly surprising, for any of us I think,

but its gravity derives in part from the confidence which DHA and UNHCR

have in their information - that they feel free to make such statements

as fact to reps from the missions to the UN, with no uncertainty attached to them. The question is how to mobilize political will to do

something now, since no one will be able to claim ignorance later

if/when the fighting resumes. Is there anything WV can do to put pressure on governments, particularly members of the Security Council, to take action?

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